

Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 00201 170901Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 MC-02 PM-04 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 ACDA-07 DODE-00

TRSE-00 /070 W

-----171000Z 063241 /20

R 170800Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 717

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMCONSUL DOUALA

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 201

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, PINS, ACOM, MASS, CM, UR, CT, EK, SHUM, NI

SUBJECT: CAMEROON: CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENCY ASSISTANT SECGEN

REF: (A) YAOUNDE 0177 (B) YAOUNDE 0051 (C) YAOUNDE 0023

(D) 76 STATE 310518 (E) STATE 6186 (F) 76 YAOUNDE 4546

1. SUMMARY. BOUBA BELLO, PRESIDENCY ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL AND DEPUTY TO EBOUA (REFTEL B) WAS GRATIFIED LEARN OF PROGRESS ON USG RESPONSES GURC REQUESTS ON TRANSCAM III AND SECURITY ASSISTANCE. HE WAS MOST INTERESTED HAVE DEPARTMENT'S ASSESSMENT SOVIET AND CUBAN DESIGNS CENTRAL AFRICA (REFTEL D). BELLO INQUIRED ABOUT STATUS CITIBANK REQUEST OPEN OFFICE AND HAD NO NEWS ON WATTS. END SUMMARY

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2. JANUARY 13 BOUBA BELLO RECEIVED DCM FOR DISCUSSION OF SAME TOPICS COVERED IN AMBASSADORIAL CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT, FOREIGN MINISTER AND PRESIDENCY SECRETARY GENERAL (REFERENCES A-C). BELLO, AS APPARENT ACTION OFFICER, WAS PARTICULARLY

INTERESTED LEARN DETAILS ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE. HE TOLD IT PREMATURE

ENTER DETAILED DISCUSSION BEFORE FINAL PROPOSAL SUBMITTED CONGRESS, NEW ADMINISTRATION HAD OPPORTUNITY REVIEW REQUEST AND CONGRESSIONAL REACTION ASCERTAINED. IN ANY EVENT FUNDS WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL END OF YEAR, IF THEN, DEPENDING ON LEGISLATIVE CYCLE AND THEIR RELEASE. HE INFORMED OF COLT REP VISIT PLANNED JANUARY 22 IN CONNECTION M-16'S AND HE SAID HE WOULD PERSONALLY CONTACT MINISTRY ARMED FORCES CONCERNING MATTER (REFTEL E). HE ALSO TOLD THAT MILITARY ATTACHE, COL IRVING, EXPECTED VISIT SOON FROM NDJAMENA AND THAT IRVING COULD FURNISH ADDITIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE INFO.

3. BELLO APPRECIATIVE POSSIBLE TRANSCAM III ASSISTANCE AND WHEN ASKED, EXERCIZED OPTION OF RECEIVING BRIEFING DEPARTMENT'S ASSESSMENT SOVIET AND CUBAN THREAT CENTRAL AFRICA (REFTEL D). HE OBVIOUSLY NOT AS WORRIED ABOUT EQUATORIAL GUINEA AS FOREIGN MINISTER, ASKED FEW QUESTIONS AND NODDED HEAD IN AGREEMENT MOST POINTS, ESPECIALLY ON NIGERIA.

4. BELLO ASKED ABOUT CURRENT STATUS CITIBANK REQUEST OPEN LOCAL OFFICE (REFTEL F). DCM NOTED THAT MARCEL YONDO, MINISTER OF FINANCE, HAD REJECTED CITICORPS REPS GRANT AND STOLEN REQUEST FOR 100 PER CENT CONTROL OF BANK AND INSISTED THAT CITICORP COME IN UNDER TERMS EXISTING LEGISLATION, WHICH PROVIDES FOR 35 PER CENT GURC OWNERSHIP. DCM OBSERVED THAT OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS SENEGAL, IVORY COAST, GABON AND ZAIRE HAD BEEN ABLE TO ARRANGE THEIR LEGISLATION SO THAT CITICORP COULD HAVE MERCHANT BANKING FACILITY. ADDITIONALLY, CITICORP HAD PULLED OUT OF NIGERIA WHEN THAT GOVERNMENT INISISTED ON HAVING PART OF ACTION. FURTHERMORE, WITH REFINERY, DOUALA-YAOUNDE ROAD BUILDING AND OTHER MAJOR PROJECTS COMING TO FINANCING STAGE, AMERICAN BANKS MUGHT HAVE A USEFUL ROLE
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TO PLAY IN SUGGESTING PROPER DEBT-EQUITY RATIOS AND ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF FINANCING. BELLO SAID HE THOUGHT PRESIDENT AHIDJO WAS IN SYMPATHY WITH CITIBANK EFFORTS AND HAD ISSUED NECESSARY INSTRUCTIONS TO RESOLVE MATTER. HOWEVER, HE WILL CHECK WITH PRESIDENT AND ASCERTAIN IF IMPASSE CAN BE BROKEN. DCM SAID HE WAS SURE CITIBANK REPS WOULD BE WILLING HAVE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WHEN TIME RIPE AND BELLO SIAD THAT HE WOULD LET US KNOW. LIBREVILLE AND NRROBI REQUESTED PASS SUBSTANCE THIS PARAGRAPH CITIBANK REPS.

5. AT THAT POINT DCM OBSERVED THAT DIPLOMATIC RUMOR MILL HAD IT THAT THERE WERE TO BE CABINET CHANGES FOLLOWING UNC FOURTH NATIONAL COUNCIL BEING HELD STARTING JAN 15 AND PERHAPS SOME OF PEOPLE INVOLVED THIS MATTER WOULD BE CHANGED. (YONDO RUMORED AS POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT PRIME MINISTER BIYA AND SOME MINISTERS, SUCH AS ECONOMY AND PLAN YOUSOUFA DAOUDA, SUPPOSED TO BE REPLACED). BELLO SMILED AND SAID IT WOULD BE BETTER TO DEAL WITH PRESENT GOVERNMENT THAN TO WAIT TO DEAL WITH THE GOVERNMENT WHICH MAY BE.

6. DCM BROUGH UP QUESTION OF WATTS AD SHOWED COPY OF
DECEMBER 10 GURC DIPLOMATIC NOTE WHICH STATED MATTER SUBJECT
OF THOROUGH STUDY. INQUIRY MADE AS TO NOW LONG IT ANTICIPATED
STUDY WOULD TAKE AND IF THERE ANY INDICATIONS AS TO WHETHER
RESULTS WOULD BE POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE. BELLO PROMISED TO LOOK INTO
MATTER AND GIVE SOME INDICATION SOONEST.
SPIRO

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Message Attributes

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